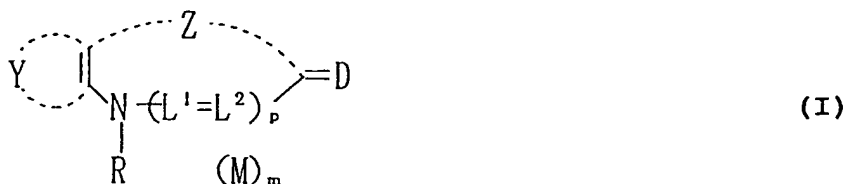


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



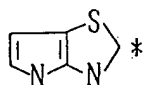
wherein Y represents a furan ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, ~~selenazole ring~~, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L¹ and L² each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I):

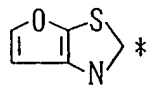


wherein Y represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L¹ and L² each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule; wherein the condensed ring containing Y and Z in the sensitizing methine dye represented by formula (I) is selected from the following Y-1 to Y-26, provided that Y-1 to Y-3 and Y-6 to Y-26 may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent:

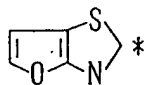
Y-1



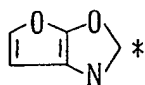
Y-2



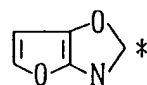
Y-3



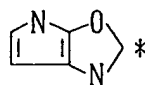
Y-6



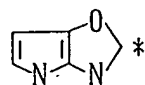
Y-7



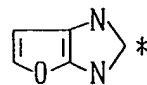
Y-8



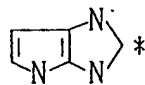
Y-9



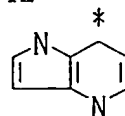
Y-10



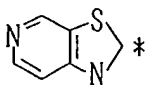
Y-11



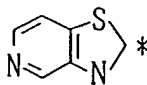
Y-12



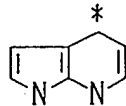
Y-13



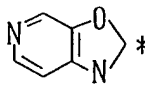
Y-14



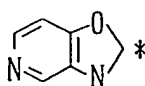
Y-15



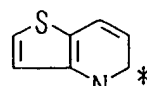
Y-16



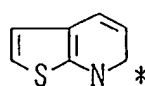
Y-17



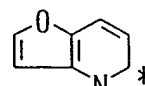
Y-18



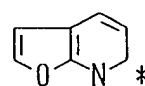
Y-19



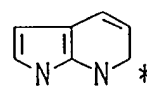
Y-20



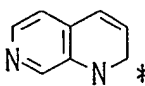
Y-21



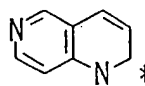
Y-22



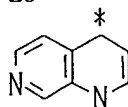
Y-23



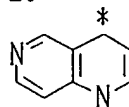
Y-24



Y-25

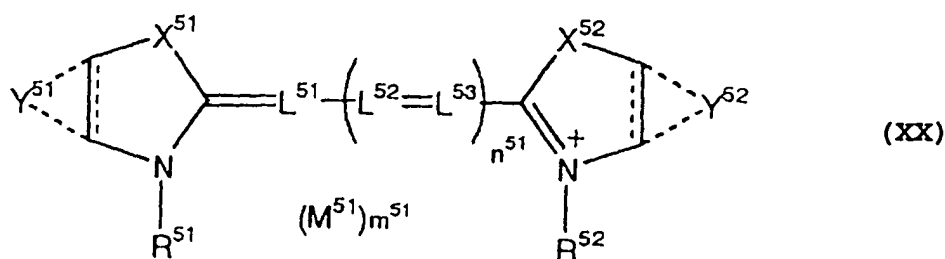


Y-26



Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):

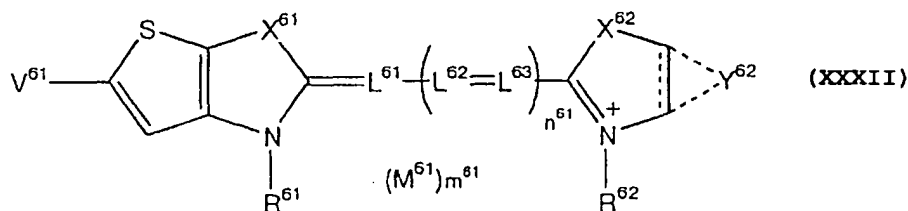
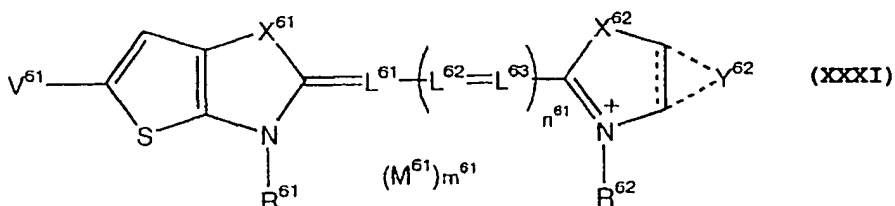


wherein Y^{51} represents a furan ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, or a nitrogen atom and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom or a nitrogen atom; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51} , L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; M^{51}

represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 5. (~~canceled~~).

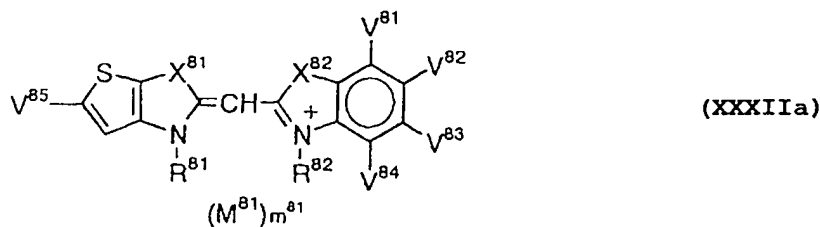
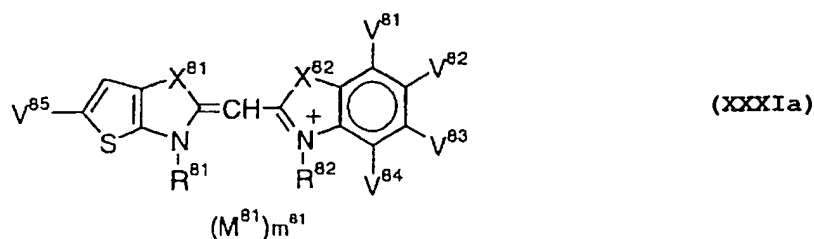
Claim 6. (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein the which comprises at least one methine dye represented by formula (XXX) is represented by the following formula (XXXI) or (XXXII):



wherein L^{61} , L^{62} and L^{63} each represents a methine group; V^{61} represents a halogen atom; X^{61} , X^{62} , Y^{62} , R^{61} , R^{62} , L^{61} , L^{62} , L^{63} , n^{61} , M^{61} and m^{61} each has the same meaning as defined in formula (XXX) in claim 5 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom; X^{62} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom; Y^{62} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic

or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{62} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{61} and R^{62} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; n^{61} represents 0 or 1; M^{61} represents a counter ion; and m^{61} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

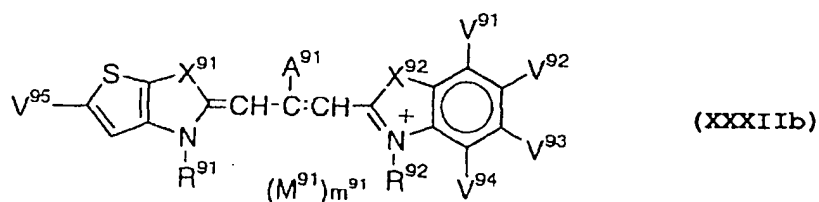
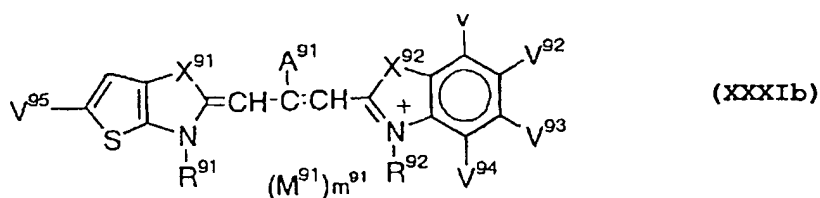
Claim 7. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa):



wherein V^{85} represents a halogen atom; X^{81} and X^{82} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{81} and R^{82} each represents an alkyl group substituted with an acid radical; V^{81} , V^{82} , V^{83} and V^{84} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{81} represents a counter ion; and m^{81} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 8. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa), at least either R^{81} or R^{82} represents an alkyl group substituted with a carboxyl group or an alkanesulfonylcarbamoyl group, and the other represents an alkyl group substituted with a sulfo group.

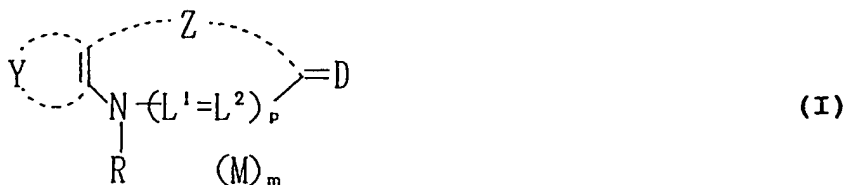
Claim 9. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb):



wherein V^{95} represents a halogen atom; X^{91} and X^{92} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{91} and R^{92} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; A^{91} represents a methyl group, an ethyl group or a propyl group; V^{91} , V^{92} , V^{93} and V^{94} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{91} represents a counter ion; and m^{91} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): A methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa), (XXXIIa), (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb).

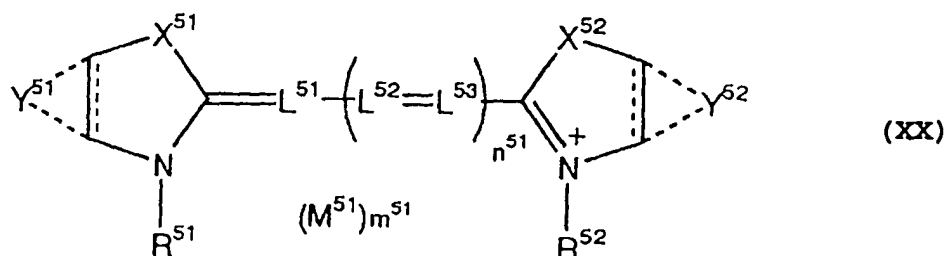
Claim 11. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



wherein Y represents a pyrrole ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents ~~an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, an~~ oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L¹ and L² each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein Z represents an oxazole ring, ~~a selenazole ring~~, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):



wherein Y^{51} represents a pyrrole ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, or a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51} , L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; M^{51} represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.